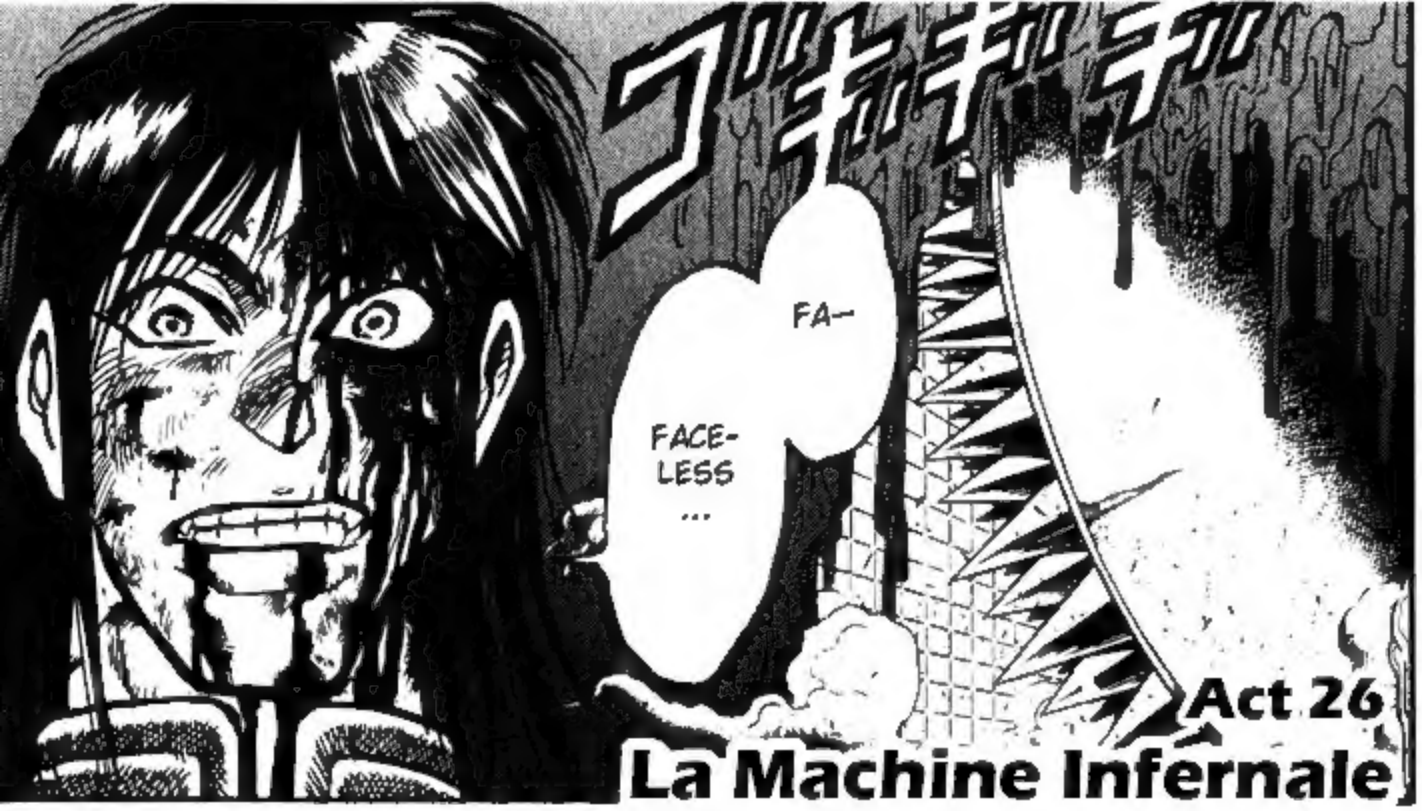


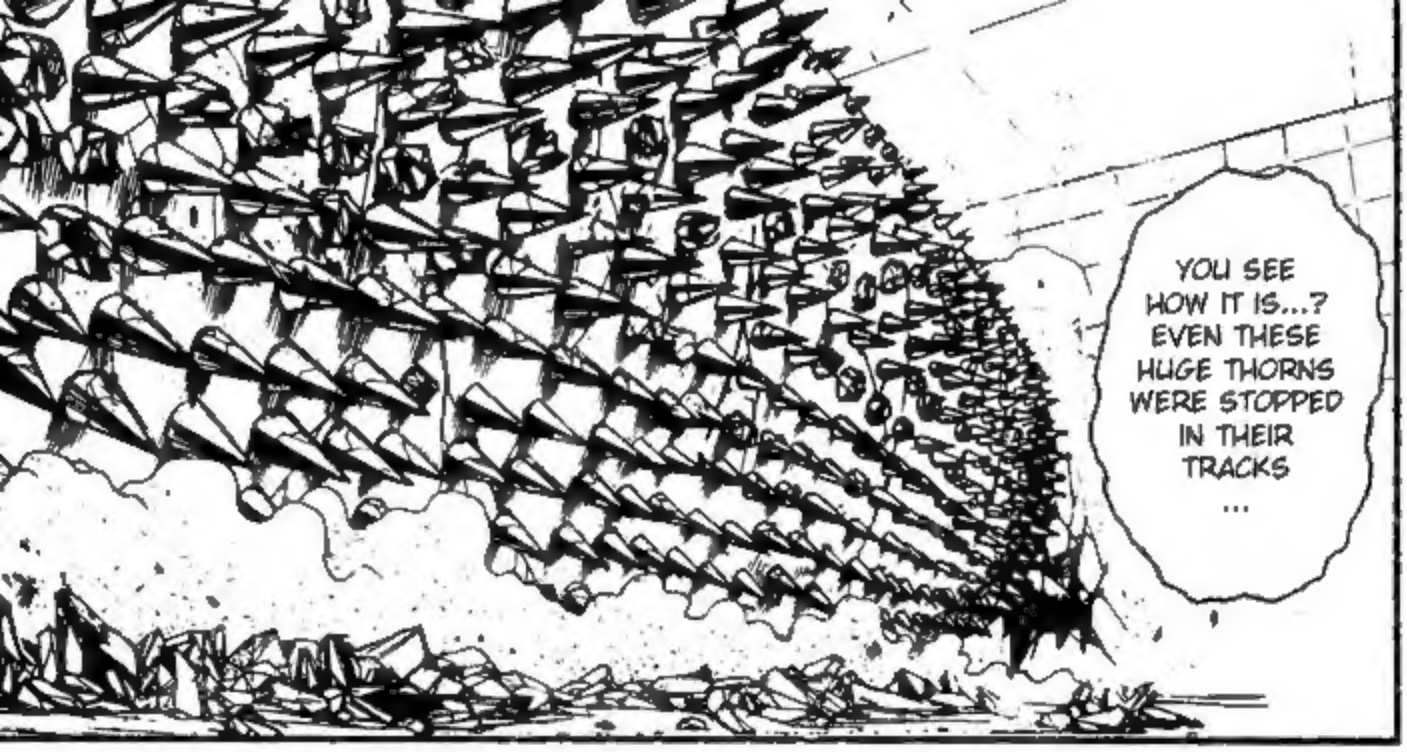
Act 26
La Machine Infernale

AND SO SHE TORE US APART.
IT SEEMS HER MOTHER THOUGHT I WAS TOO SHADY A PROSPECT.
I, WITH MY JOKER'S FACE... I, WHO COULD WEATHER ANY KIND OF SORROWS ...

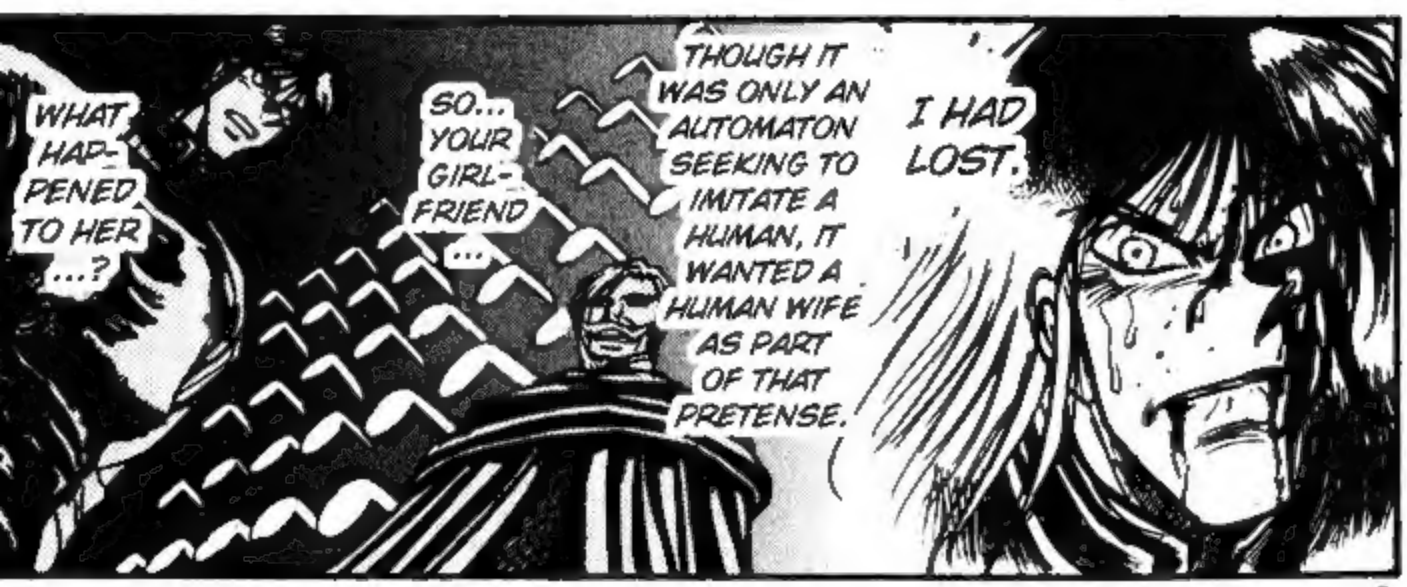
YOU... DID THIS TO SAVE ME...?
第26幕
地獄の機械

EVEN THE MOST GRANDIOSE OF ACTIONS... MUST BEGIN WITH THE MOVEMENT OF A SINGLE TINY GEAR...

BEING MOVED BY GEARS... IT'S A RATHER TRAGIC THING...

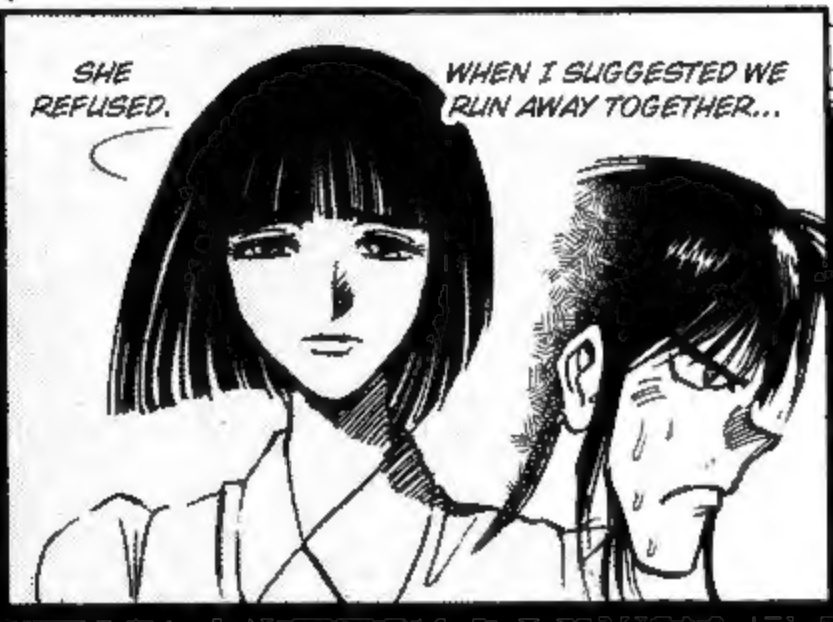

YOU SEE HOW IT IS...? EVEN THESE HUGE THORNS WERE STOPPED IN THEIR TRACKS ...

FACE-LESS!
BY SUCH A SMALL STONE AS I... GETTING CAUGHT IN THEIR WORKS ...


WHAT HAP-PENED TO HER ...?
SO... YOUR GIRL-FRIEND ...
THOUGH IT WAS ONLY AN AUTOMATON SEEKING TO IMITATE A HUMAN, IT WANTED A HUMAN WIFE AS PART OF THAT PRETENSE.
I HAD LOST.

HOLD ON, FACELESS! I'M GONNA GET YOU OUT OF THERE!

MOREOVER, SHE HAD BEGUN TO SUSPECT HERSELF THAT HER HUSBAND WAS NOT A HUMAN BEING.
... APPARENTLY, SHE HAD NEVER REALLY WISHED TO MARRY "HIM".


SHE REFUSED.
WHEN I SUGGESTED WE RUN AWAY TOGETHER...

THAT COULD MOVE ON ITS OWN.
THAT WE WERE UP AGAINST A DOLL ...
I HAD NO IDEA AT THE TIME, OF COURSE ...

"I CANNOT LET YOU BE KILLED ALONG WITH ME."
"YOU MUST ESCAPE ALONE."

BUT THOUGH SHE WAS RELUCTANT, I FLED WITH HER BY MY SIDE.
SEEMED TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN.
MOST LIKELY SHE WAS PARALYZED WITH FEAR BY THE FACT THAT HER HUSBAND ...
IT WAS THEN...
IF WE JUST MADE IT TO THE EDGE OF TOWN.
I WAS SURE WE WOULD BE SAFE ...
THAT I MET MY FIRST ALTOMATON.
カリア

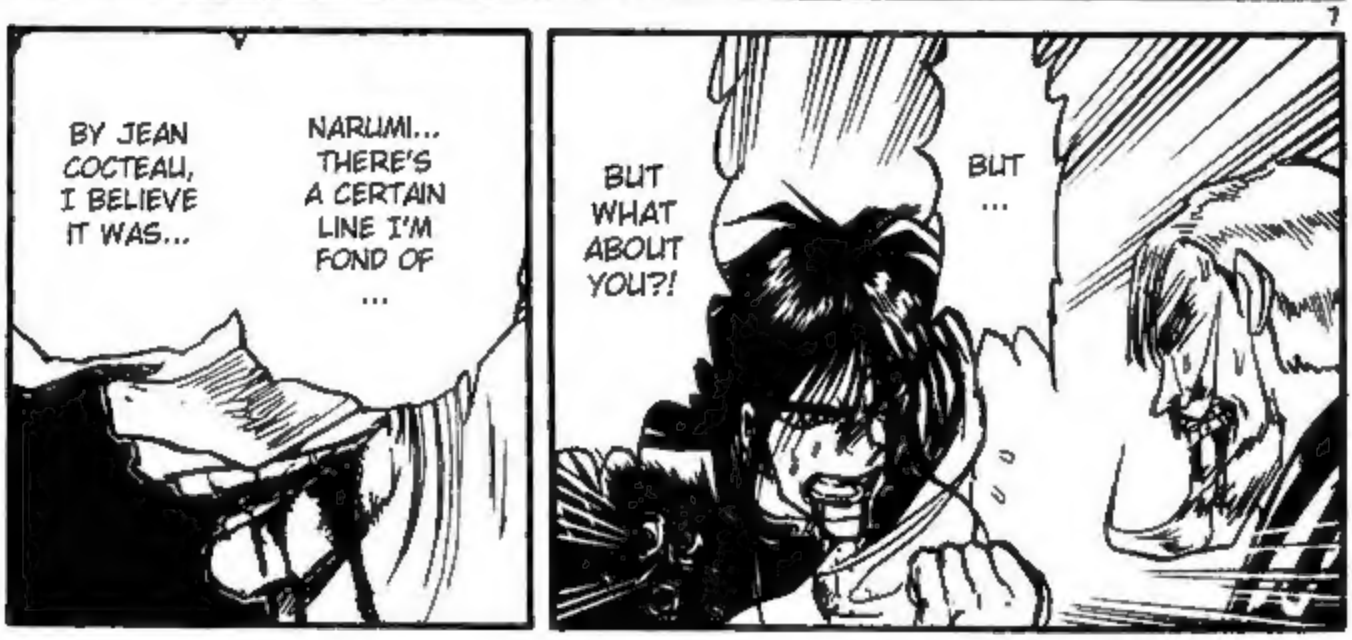
NARUMI... YOU MUST GO NOW.
HUH?
.....

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE MY ARMS AND LEGS ARE ANYMORE.
THEY'VE BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY THE GEARS.
B- BUT ...

YOU'VE NOTICED IT, HAVEN'T YOU? YOUR WOUNDS ARE HEALING VERY SLOWLY.

!
YOU SEE? YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE TOO IF YOU DON'T HURRY.

BLOOD... YOU AND I BOTH HAVE LOST FAR TOO MUCH BLOOD.
THAT BLOOD IN WHICH FLOWS AQUA VITAE, THE SOURCE OF THE SHIROGANE'S IMMORTALITY...
PEASHOOTER CRUSHED YOUR ARM AND YOUR FOOT...
AND THEY HAVE NOT YET RE-COVERED.
THERE ARE OPEN WOUNDS ALL OVER YOUR BODY.
YOU MUST HURRY... WHILE YOU ARE STILL CAPABLE OF MOVING.
YOU ARE GOING ON TO THE NEXT ROOM, TO AID DMITRI AND THE OTHERS, AREN'T YOU?


BY JEAN COCTEAU, I BELIEVE IT WAS...
NARUMI... THERE'S A CERTAIN LINE I'M FOND OF ...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
BUT ...

"FATE IS A HELLISH MACHINE."

LIKE AN ENORMOUS MACHINE... DESIGNED BY SOMEONE IN HELL...
IT'S FUNNY ... MY FATE REALLY WAS...

JUST LIKE THESE THORNS ...
AND THE COGS STOPPED TURNING.
ONE DAY, SOMETHING GOT CAUGHT IN IT...

SHE DIED.
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS...?
QUITE BY ACCIDENT...
AS I STRUGGLED AGAINST THE AUTO-MATON!...
MISERABLE THOUGH I WAS, I MANAGED TO ESCAPE. LATER ON, I DEVELOPED ZONAPHA SYNDROME. AND AFTER MEETING LUCILLE, I FOLLOWED A PATH WITH WHICH YOU ARE FAMILIAR... I BECAME A SHIROGANE.
SHE FELL INTO A WELL.

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF, NARUMI.
FACE-LESS, I...

.....

TOLD TO YOU... BY A MAN WHO HAS LOST HIS FACE...
NOT OVER A BORING OLD STORY ...

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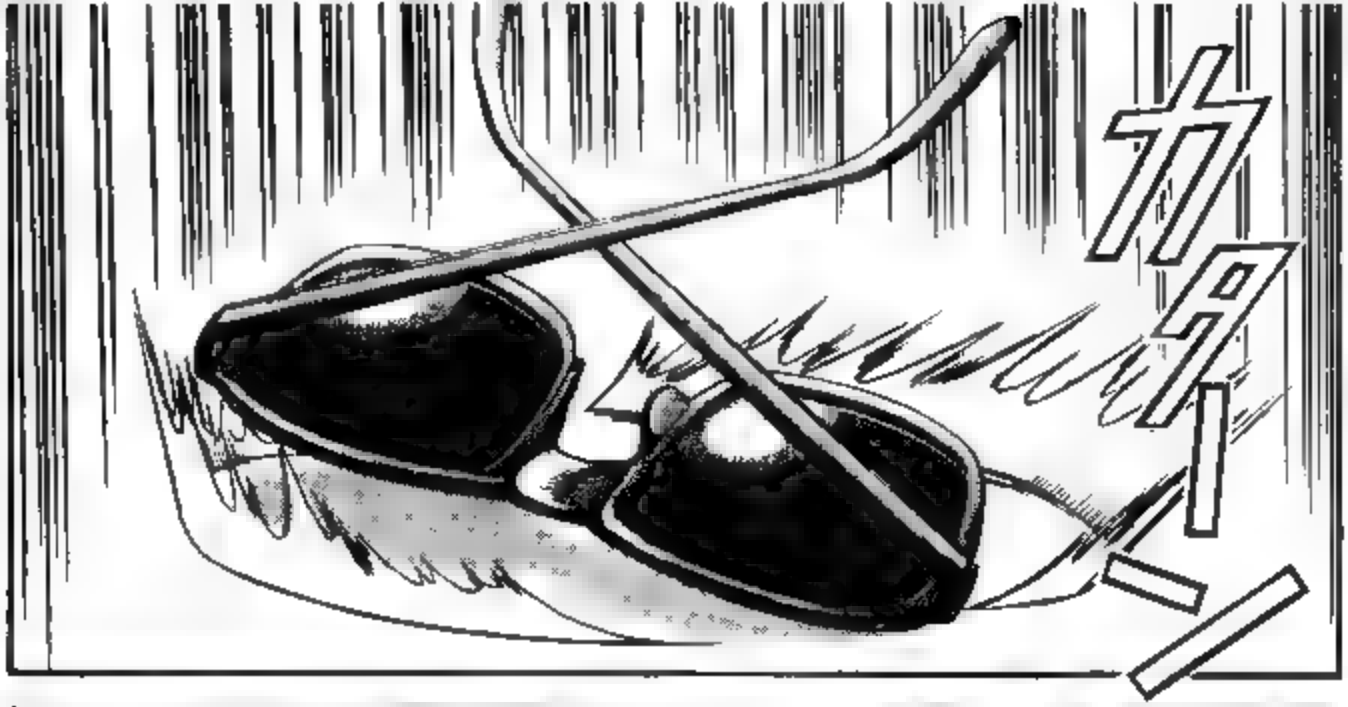
MUCH TOO CHATTY ...
I GET ...

IF I'M NOT WEARING THESE...
... REALLY, NOW...

NOW GO...
AND... DESTROY THE DOLL FRANCINE ...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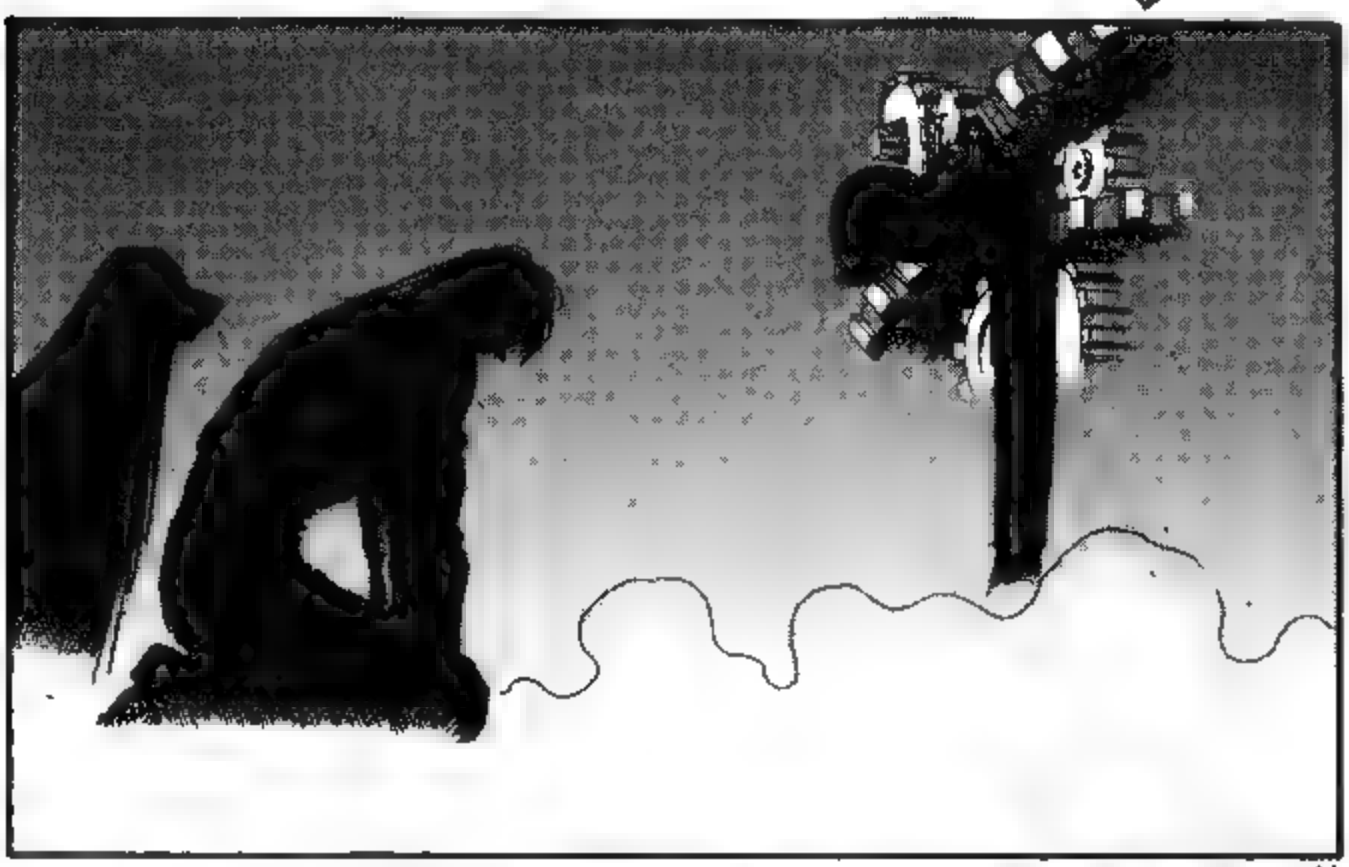


I'LL DESTROY THE DOLL FRANCINE. I SWEAR.

DON'T WORRY ...

THAT'S RIGHT. WHICHEVER OF YOU LASTS THE LONGEST IN THIS FIGHT...
WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH LADY FRANCINE.
COME ON NOW, SHIRO-GANE! WHAT'S WRONG ?!
THIS IS A RARE CHANCE FOR YOU, AND YET YOU'RE TOTALLY HELPLESS ?!
13
I AM ALAN, THE SWIFTEST OF THE SHIRO-GANE -O!
I WAS THE ONE TO FINISH HIM!
HMPH!
BUT IT TOOK ALL THREE OF YOU TO DEFEAT HIGH CORD RUDY, THE WEAKEST OF US THREE! ARE YOU EXHAUSTED ALREADY?!

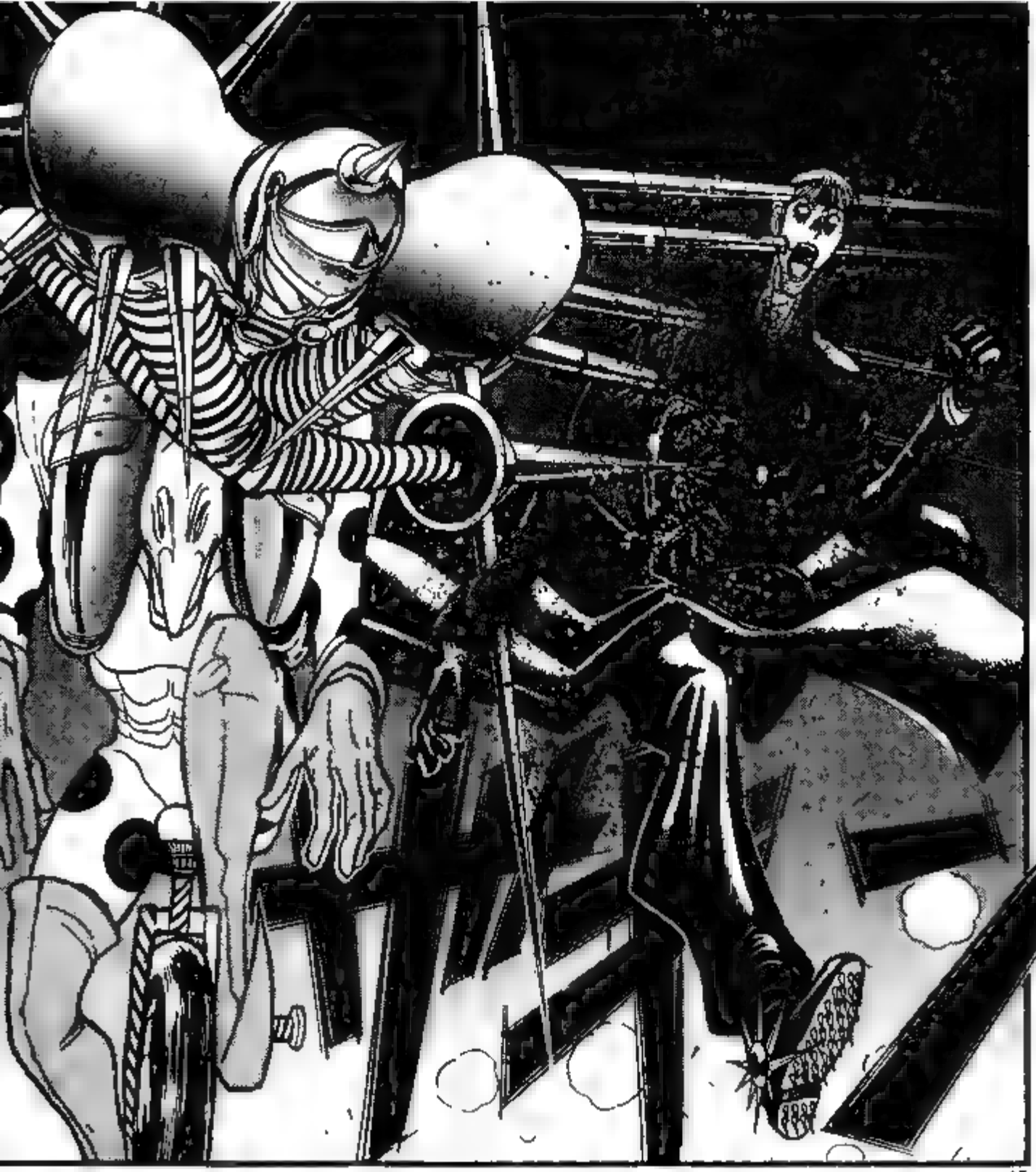
ALAN! DON'T BE TOO HASTY!
WAIT!

I'M AT THE DOOR!

I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS ROOM!
THESE SMALL FRY OPPONENTS AREN'T EVEN WORTH MY TIME! MY ONLY GOAL IS THE DOLL FRANCINE.

FOOLS! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN OVERTAKE ME NOW?!

OH MY. WELL, SPEEDY FRANK, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP TO HIM, KNIGHT MICHELLE. GET ON.



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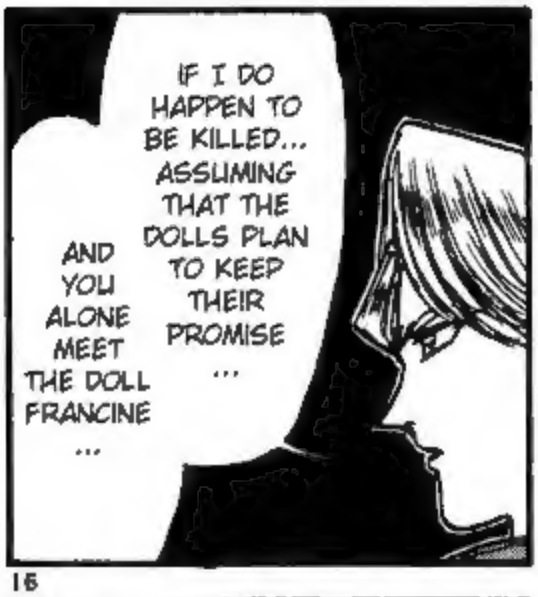
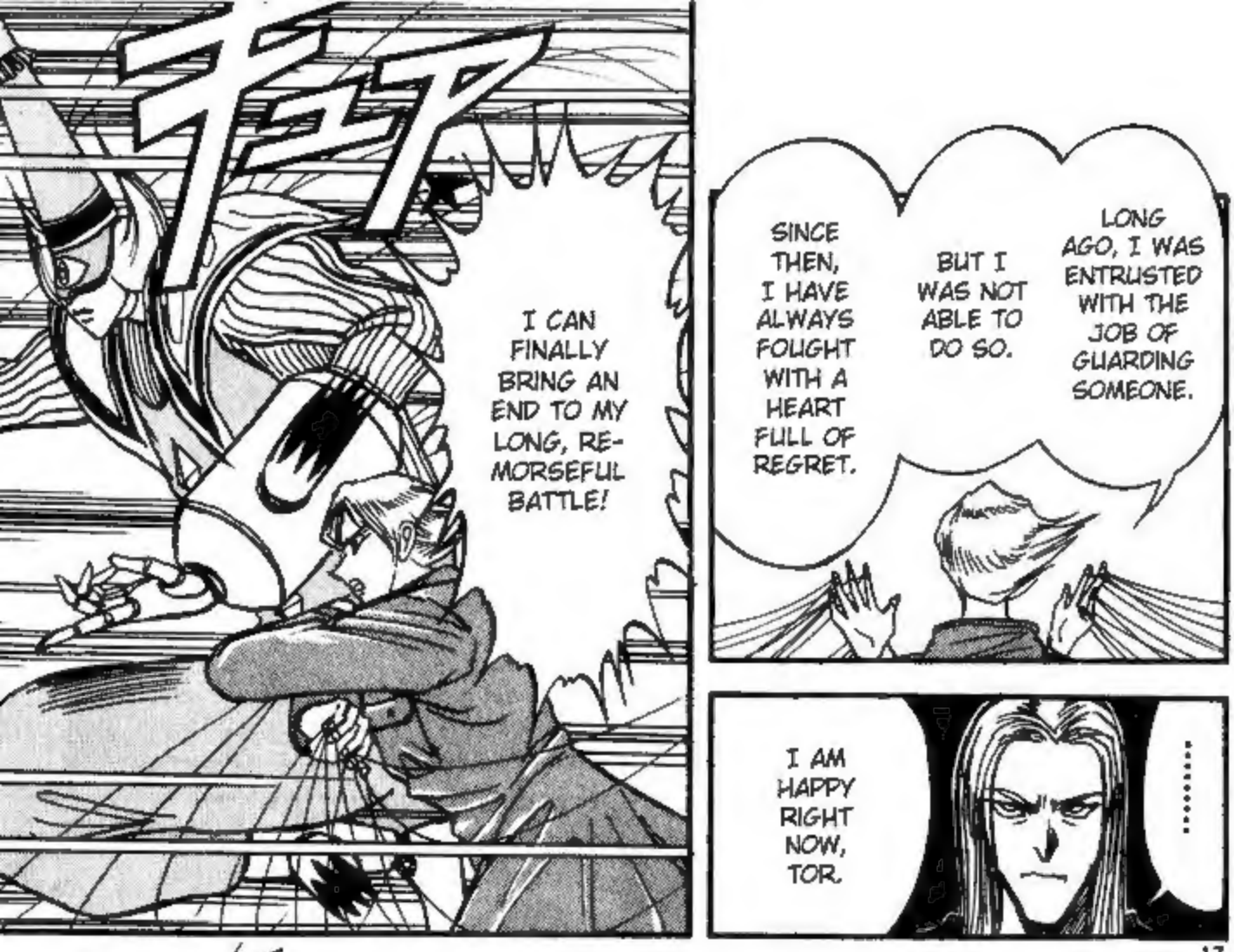
NOW THEN, WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO DIE?


IF I DO HAPPEN TO BE KILLED... ASSUMING THAT THE DOLLS PLAN TO KEEP THEIR PROMISE ...
AND YOU ALONE MEET THE DOLL FRANCINE ...

I WILL.
DMITRI!

PLEASE BE SURE TO DESTROY HER, TOR.
YOU CAN'T ...!


I CAN FINALLY BRING AN END TO MY LONG, REMORSEFUL BATTLE!
LONG AGO, I WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE JOB OF GUARDING SOMEONE.
BUT I WAS NOT ABLE TO DO SO.
SINCE THEN, I HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT WITH A HEART FULL OF REGRET.
I AM HAPPY RIGHT NOW, TOR.
.....

I'LL MAKE IT FAST!
AS YOU WISH, THEN!

ガキン

I'M HERE ...
TO TAKE OVER THIS FIGHT.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Chapter title & pg. 8: *La Machine Infernale* is a grimly comic 1934 play by Jean Cocteau that retells the story of Oedipus as he struggles against the cruel fate foretold at his birth.

pg. 13: I made a guess based on the wires that appear to be coming out of him, but the phrase *hai koodo* shows up mostly in musical contexts, so High Cord Rudy (ハイコード・ルディ) may actually be High Chord Rudy.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.